

Transitions, Inc.

Summer 2001

TRANSITIONS RECEIVES AWARD FOR ROLE IN DRUG COURT

In recognition of Transitions' role as the treatment provider for Kenton and Campbell Counties' adult drug courts, the Northern Kentucky Area Development District (NKADD) named Transitions the Human Services New Program award recipient for fiscal year 2001. The NKADD presented the award to Executive Director Mac McArthur during their 30th anniversary celebration on August 20th. The event's keynote speakers were former Kentucky governors Louie B. Nunn and Julian M. Carroll.

Since the courts' inceptions in 1998 and 1999, both drug courts have provided an alternative sentencing option for non-violent, chemically dependent offenders appropriate for long-term court supervision and intensive chemical dependency treatment in the community. Participants appear before Kenton Circuit Judge Gregory Bartlett and Campbell Circuit Judge

William Wehr as often as once per week and are supervised by drug court staff while undergoing treatment at Transitions. Clients are eligible to graduate from drug court after 18 months and meeting all requirements for completion.

A comprehensive report from the University of Kentucky outlining the effectiveness of these drug courts and Transitions' treatment is forthcoming. There are several encouraging signs, though. Fewer than 10% of the graduates have been convicted of new crime, approximately 98% of participants' drug screens have been negative, and almost all who entered without a high school diploma or equivalent have earned GEDs.

In addition to providing the treatment for these drug courts, Transitions played a role in identifying the need for drug courts in the region and obtained a planning grant to help establish the Kenton County Drug Court.

Prior to this award, Assistant Executive Director Karen Hargett received a special award from the Kentucky Administrative Office of

Excerpts from the nomination...

"...the treatment provided by Transitions is not simply an alternative to incarceration, it is an alternative that, in many ways, is more demanding and challenging than incarceration. Since treatment entails taking a look at how one's addiction and behavior has affected themselves and others, learning and practicing skills such as maintaining employment...and doing these and other prosocial activities over an extended period of time despite temptations in the community, it is no small wonder that many clients have found treatment, in conjunction with seeing a judge or drug court staff every week, to be a rather imposing challenge."

"The need for drug courts in Kentucky, and in Northern Kentucky specifically, is well documented...it costs \$45.74 per day to incarcerate one inmate in a Kentucky prison cell that cost approximately \$100,000 to build; 78% of Kentucky prisoners are dependent on alcohol and/or other drugs...despite these statistics and research showing that chemical dependency treatment reduces substance use and recidivism, only 12% of Kentucky adult prisoners receive treatment while incarcerated!!"

the Courts for "unparalleled commitment and support" of the Kenton and Campbell County Drug Courts. Transitions also received the NKADD award in 1992 in recognition of the Women's Residential Addiction Program.



Executive Director Mac McArthur and Assistant Executive Director Karen Hargett with the human services award presented to Transitions.

*Helping individuals, families and communities
break the cycles of substance abuse, family abuse,
violence, crime and poverty*